



Public Schools of North Carolina

# Ready Schools Toolkit: An Overview

Cindy Bagwell  
Eva Phillips  
Dan Tetreault

Office of Early Learning  
NC Department of Public Instruction

# Welcome & Introductions

- Who are we?

## OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING

Preparing children for school success through high-quality early education.



- Who is with us today?



# Webinar Goals

- Overview of Content
- Alignment of Ready School Pathways and SBE Goals
- Integrating Ready Schools Pathways into the School Improvement Plan
- Ideas for Toolkit Review & Survey



# Overview of Ready Schools Toolkit

- Components
  - Introduction
  - Getting Started
  - Ready Schools Pathways
  - References



# Introduction

- Why Ready Schools?
- What is a Ready School?



“Ready schools put children first, focus on learning and believe...”



- All children start school with the ability to learn.
- All children are ready for kindergarten.
- All children can embrace their uniqueness and respect their differences.
- Student diversity is challenging, but rewarding.



- Screening procedures provide data that inform instructional practices, need for additional assessment and support services.
- Communication with families starts early in the preschool years and continues.
- The school environment is prepared to support the learning and development of all children.



# Getting Started

- Build your teams
  - Community/District
  - School-Based
  - Key Elements
    - Strong partnerships
    - Strong leadership
    - Careful planning
    - On-going commitment
    - Broad-based and multi-layered





# Implementation Process

- Collaborative Team Development
- Needs Assessment
- Action Planning
- Implementation
- Evaluation



# Ready Schools Pathways

- Leaders and Leadership
- Family, School and Community Partnerships
- Transitions
- Respecting Diversity
- Engaging Environments
- Effective Curricula, Instruction & Child Assessment
- Teacher Supports and Adult Learning Communities
- Assessing Progress and Assuring Quality



# Ready Schools Pathways

- Components
  - Expanded Definition of Pathway
  - Key Understandings
  - Assessing the Pathway: A Closer Look
  - Taking Action



# Pathway One:

## *Leaders and Leadership*

- Administrators
  - Self-assess
  - Engage their teams in examining school policies and practices
  - Become skillful in using evidence and data



# Pathway Two:

## *Family, School & Community Partnerships*

- These are the foundation!
- They work together to
  - Address student needs
  - Determine practices and policies for family/community participation in school life
  - Foster children's readiness
  - Provide opportunities and services



# Pathway Three:

## *Transitions*

- “a life change” or “moving from one environment or experience to another”
- A Ready School works to provide smooth transitions among the settings and services for young children and their families



# Pathway Four:

## *Respecting Diversity*

- Ready Schools are responsible for creating a welcoming environment that...
  - Respects diversity
  - Supports children's ties to families and communities
  - Promotes both second language acquisition and preservation of home language and cultural identities



# Pathway Five:

## *Engaging Environments*

- Engaging environments go beyond what the school building looks like and includes
  - Classroom learning environment
  - School climate
  - Interactions
  - Safe, inviting and developmentally appropriate practices that support the whole child





# Pathway Six:

## *Effective Curricula, Instruction & Child Assessment*

- Ready Schools priorities include:
  - Projecting an open, child-focused atmosphere
  - Employing educational methods shown to be effective
  - Accommodating and including children with disabilities
  - Aligning standards, curriculum & assessment
  - Using research and data to drive planning & instruction



# Pathway Seven:

## *Teacher Supports & Adult Learning Communities*

- Ready schools are designed to support the ongoing learning & development of teachers, staff & administrators...
  - Ensure space, time, tools & resources
  - Promote & foster professional learning communities & high quality PD
    - Educators work together to analyze and improve classroom practices & insure seamless experiences for children
    - Partner with family & community



# Pathway Eight:

## *Assessing Progress & Assuring Quality*

- Ongoing assessment & monitoring of quality
  - Use data to plan and tailor instruction to student needs, to improve instruction and outcomes for all children
  - Both formal and informal assessments
  - Data-driven written improvement plan



# Alignment between RS and SBE Goals

## Ready School Pathways

SBE Goals	Leaders and Leadership	Family, School, & Community Partnerships	Transitions	Respecting Diversity	Engaging Environments	Effective Curricula	Teacher Supports	Assessing Progress
Globally Competitive Students								
Healthy & Responsible Students								
Leadership Guides Innovation								
Led by 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Professionals								
Governed & Supported by 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Systems								

# Toolkit Review Suggestions

- A Ready Schools team effort with each member responsible for reviewing one section and providing feedback.
- Each Ready Schools team member reviews the toolkit and shares feedback at a team meeting. All input is compiled and summarized.
- Other ideas?



# Survey Information

- Online survey
- Will be sent out May 19
- Complete one survey for each school
- Submit by June 2
- Should take less than 30 minutes
- **\$500 after submission**



# Survey Information

## Types of Questions:

- Dissemination
- Organization
- Plans for Use
- Potential Usefulness
- Barriers
- Demographics



# Questions





# Contact Information

- Toolkit Information

- Cindy Bagwell

- [cindy.bagwell@ncpublicschools.gov](mailto:cindy.bagwell@ncpublicschools.gov)

- 919-981-5353

- Grant/Survey Information

- Kimberly Sparling-Meunier

- [ksparling-meunier@ncsmartstart.org](mailto:ksparling-meunier@ncsmartstart.org)

- 919-821-9575

